

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A modular spa comprising:

a spa shell including:

- (i) a bottom and a side together defining a fluid support surface, the side comprising a substantially upright side wall and a rim extending from and surrounding the side wall; and
- (ii) a support member integrally molded with the rim, the support member comprising one of a metal extrusion and a polymeric extrusion and including a substantially horizontal top surface and a substantially vertical outer surface, the rim including a rim top extending substantially horizontally and outwards from the side wall over the top surface, and a rim face extending substantially downwards from the rim top and over the outer surface, the rim face being distinct from the side wall, the rim top and the rim face comprising a polymeric sheet substantially surrounding the support member, the vertical outer surface of the support member including a first substantially vertical support surface and a flange extending outwardly from the first support surface, the rim face including a first substantially vertical face disposed over the first support surface and a lip extending substantially outwards from the first vertical face and surrounding the flange; and

a support frame supporting the spa shell at the support member.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The modular spa according to claim 1, wherein the support frame comprises a plurality of elongate polymeric support struts, and the support struts are secured to the support members.

Claims 3 to 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The modular spa according to claim 1, wherein the rim is integrally molded with the side wall.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The modular spa according to claim 5, wherein the support member is integrally molded with the rim top and the rim face.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The modular spa according to claim 1, wherein the flange is integrally molded with the lip.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The modular spa according to claim 9, wherein the lip is integrally molded with the vertical face, and the rim face is integrally molded with the rim top.

Claims 11 to 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): The spa shell according to claim 16, wherein the rim is integrally molded with the side wall.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): The spa shell according to claim 16, wherein the support member is integrally molded with the rim top and the rim face.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A spa shell comprising:

- a bottom and a side together defining a fluid support surface, the side comprising a substantially upright side wall and a rim extending from and surrounding the side wall; and

- a support member integrally molded with the rim, the support member including a substantially horizontal top surface and a substantially vertical outer surface, the rim including a rim top extending substantially horizontally and outwards from the side wall over the top surface, and a rim face extending substantially downwards from the rim top and over the outer

surface, the rim top and the rim face substantially surrounding the support member, the vertical outer surface of the support member including a first substantially vertical support surface and a flange extending outwardly from the first support surface, the rim face being distinct from the side wall and including a first substantially vertical face disposed over the first support surface and a lip extending substantially outwards from the first vertical face and surrounding the flange.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The spa shell according to claim 15, wherein the flange is integrally molded with the lip.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The spa shell according to claim 17, wherein the lip is integrally molded with the vertical face, and the rim face is integrally molded with the rim top.

Claims 19 to 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (previously presented): The spa shell according to claim 16, wherein the rim face includes at least one of a permanent magnet and a metal strip for removably securing a cabinet to the spa shell.

Claim 23 (withdrawn – currently amended): A method of fabricating a spa shell comprising the steps of:

disposing a support member in a spa mold, the support member ~~comprising one of a metal extrusion and a polymeric extrusion~~including a substantially horizontal top surface and a substantially vertical outer surface, the vertical outer surface of the support member including a first substantially vertical support surface and a flange extending outwardly from the first support surface, the spa mold defining a shape of a spa shell;

with the mold, molding a polymeric layer around a portion of the support member, the polymeric layer ~~comprising an acrylic layer and an ABS plastic layer bonded to the acrylic layer~~, the polymeric layer adopting the shape of the spa shell, the molded and shaped polymeric layer having a bottom and a side together defining a fluid support surface, the side comprising a substantially upright side wall and a rim extending from and surrounding the side wall, the support member being integrally molded with the ~~siderim~~, the rim including a rim top extending

substantially horizontally and outwards from the side wall over the top surface, and a rim face extending substantially downwards from the rim top and over the outer surface, the rim top and the rim face substantially surrounding the support member, the rim face being distinct from the side wall and including a first substantially vertical face disposed over the first support surface and a lip extending substantially outwards from the first vertical face and surrounding the flange;
and

releasing the molded and shaped polymeric layer and the support member from the mold.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 23, wherein the molding step comprises the steps of heating the polymeric layer until pliable, and vacuum forming the pliable polymeric layer to the shape of the spa shell and over the support member.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 24, wherein the releasing step comprises the steps of allowing the polymeric layer to cool sufficiently to retain the shape of the spa shell, and removing the cooled spa shell from the mold.

Claim 26 (cancelled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): A spa kit comprising:

a spa shell molded in the shape of a spa and including:

(i) a bottom and a side together defining a fluid support surface, ~~the support member comprising one of a metal extrusion and a polymeric extrusion~~the side comprising a substantially upright side wall and a rim extending from and surrounding the side wall; and

(ii) a support member integrally molded with the side~~rim~~, the support member ~~comprising one of a metal extrusion and a polymeric extrusion~~including a substantially horizontal top surface and a substantially vertical outer surface, the rim including a rim top extending substantially horizontally and outwards from the side wall over the top surface, and a rim face extending substantially downwards from the rim top and over the outer surface, the rim top and the rim face substantially surrounding the support member, the side comprising a

~~polymeric sheet molded around a portion of the extrusion~~the vertical outer surface of the support member including a first substantially vertical support surface and a flange extending outwardly from the first support surface, the rim face being distinct from the side wall and including a first substantially vertical face disposed over the first support surface and a lip extending substantially outwards from the first vertical face and surrounding the flange;

a support frame for supporting the spa shell at the support member; and
a spa base for supporting the support frame.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The spa kit according to claim 27, wherein the support frame comprises a plurality of elongate polymeric support struts, and the support struts are configured to be secured to the support members.

Claim 29 (cancelled).

Claim 30 (cancelled).

Claim 31 (currently amended): The spa kit according to claim ~~[30]~~27, wherein the rim is integrally molded with the side wall.

Claim 32 (cancelled).

Claim 33 (currently amended): The spa kit according to claim ~~[32]~~27, wherein the support member is integrally molded with the rim top and the rim face.

Claim 34 (cancelled).

Claim 35 (currently amended): The spa kit according to claim ~~[34]~~27, wherein the flange is integrally molded with the lip.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 35, wherein the lip is integrally molded with the vertical face, and the rim face is integrally molded with the rim top.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 35, further including a cabinet for attachment to the spa shell proximate the support members.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 37, wherein the cabinet comprises a plurality of decorative panels, each said decorative panel being configured for attachment to the spa base and the spa shell.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 37, wherein the cabinet is configured for attachment at one end to the second vertical face below the lip, and for attachment at an opposite end to the spa base.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 37, wherein one of the support frame and the spa shell includes a first permanent magnet for removably securing the cabinet thereto.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 40, wherein the spa base includes at least one of a second permanent magnet for removably securing the cabinet to the spa base.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 38, wherein the spa base comprises a plurality of interlockable base sections.

Claim 43 (cancelled).

Claim 44 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 27, wherein the polymeric sheet includes an acrylic layer, and an ABS plastic layer bonded to the acrylic layer.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The spa kit according to claim 44, wherein the bottom is integrally molded with the side.

Claim 46 (withdrawn – currently amended): A method of assembling a modular spa comprising the steps of:

providing a prefabricated spa shell, the spa shell comprising a polymeric sheet molded in the shape of a spa and including:

(i) a bottom and a side together defining a fluid support surface, the side comprising a substantially upright side wall and a rim extending from and surrounding the side wall; and

(ii) ~~at least one support member integrally molded with the side~~rim, the at least one support member comprising one of a metal extrusion and a polymeric extrusion including a substantially horizontal top surface, and a substantially vertical outer surface, the rim including a rim top extending substantially horizontally and outwards from the side wall over the top surface, and a rim face extending substantially downwards from the rim top and over the outer surface, the rim top and the rim face substantially surrounding the support member, the side being molded around a portion of the extrusionthe vertical outer surface of the support member including a first substantially vertical support surface and a flange extending outwardly from the first support surface, the rim face being distinct from the side wall and including a first substantially vertical face disposed over the first support surface and a lip extending substantially outwards from the first vertical face and surrounding the flange;

providing a spa base, and securing a support frame at one end to the at least one support member of the spa shell and at an opposite end to the spa base; and

securing a cabinet to the spa shell and to the spa base.